

What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A piezoelectric ceramic body comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of insulating layers situated one over the other, the
 - 3 insulating layers being composed of a piezoactive ceramic material; and
 - 4 internal electrodes separating at least portions of the insulating layers
 - 5 from each other, at least a part of at least one of the internal electrodes containing a
 - 6 silver-containing material, the material of the at least one internal electrode having a
 - 7 component which at least one of reduces and inhibits a diffusion of silver from the at
 - 8 least one internal electrode into an insulating layer.
- 1 2. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the component
- 2 contains a piezoelectric ceramic component.
- 1 3. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 2, wherein the ceramic
- 2 component includes $Pb (Ti_xZr_{1-x})O_3$, where $0.40 < x < 0.60$.
- 1 4. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the material has
- 2 an AgPd alloy as a main component.
- 1 5. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 4, wherein the alloy
- 2 contains at least 70 percent per mass Ag.
- 1 6. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the component
- 2 is present in a concentration of a maximum of 50 percent by volume, with respect to
- 3 an overall volume of a material of the internal electrode.
- 1 7. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the component
- 2 contains at least one of:
 - 3 rare-earth metals including at least one of La and Nd;
 - 4 subgroup elements including at least one of Nb, Ta, Fe and Ni;
 - 5 alkali metals including at least one of Li, Na and K; and

6 alkaline-earth metals including Sr.

1 8. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 7, wherein the at least one
2 of the rare-earth metals, the subgroup elements, the alkali metals and the alkaline-
3 earth metals are used as dopants at a concentration of less than 8 Mol%, with
4 respect to a material of the internal electrode.

1 9. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the internal
2 electrodes are electrically conductive and are composed of an AgPd alloy.

10. The piezoelectric ceramic body according to claim 9, wherein the internal
electrodes are further composed of a PZT ceramic modified by at least one of: rare-
earth metals, subgroup elements, alkali metals and alkaline-earth metals.

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